Graham, Fred, phone conversation 1/7/72

Wants to pick my mind about WC Report. I am on very short notice trying to pull myself together as to minor detail and I can't recall what was said about it. And that is, it had to do with President Kennedy's brace.And his Ace bandage."
"Here's why I'm asking about it. They are fonally going to in the next few weeks, open up some of that material to pathologists. And they are accepting requests from pathologists who want to look at it."
W:"Are you a pahtologist?"
"No, I'm not a pathologist, but they will let people like me, not like me but they will let people who are not pathologists who they ~~will~~ consider have a legitimate reason commission a pathologist to go and study the stuff.And they say that they don't limit to patthologists who represent people who are, who agree with the WR. In fact, Burke Marshall, whoss in charge of this,for the Kennedy family, assumes that anyone who wants to look into it does not agree with the Warren Report."
"I'm not sure that he's really goint to act on this. This is just what he says.He is reserving the right to approve each one on a person-to -person basis.But anyway, going back to this business, now that these people are going to see it, I've been calling some of them ~~them~~ up and asking them what they want to see. And one of these doctors, one of them,...one of the things I want to see is the brace and the Ace bandage he was wearing because...that's apparently what kept him from falling over.After he was hit the first time." found no real refs to bandage. Discussion my new evidence.
"Here's what I wanna know..." I say irrelevant. "Are they relevant to naything?" W:"No."
G:"That's what I thought." We."Now let me tell you why" and then does, using my own experince as back braces to illustrate.
"Well, now here's what the doctor told me. He said that the Ace bandage was wrapped around Kennedy's crotch...over the brace to anchor the bottom of the brace...Why would a person wear an Ace bandage - as I understand it,the Ace nandage was passed through his crotch, around a buttock, back through the crotch, around the other buttock,in a pigure-8 pattern...I can see no reason for that except to anchor a corset."I explain other reason, to brace what the corset can't, the bottom of the spine, for if the corset is low enough to do this he can t sit. "I see....Well, just imagine how tough it was walking around with an Ace bandage wrapped around your, uh, through your crotch and around your...Well, now, uh, so, what I want to get at, and I think you have virtually answered it, is whether or not there was much written about the Ace bandage...(I offer access to my Z to show how fast K did fall over)..."At this time I feel the same way that you probably assume that most people do, and that is that unless there is unless there is some glimmer of something that really sticks out, ~~sticks~~ looks like it stinks, I'm not gonna immerse myself...What should they (pathologists be looking for?...(I tell that film doesn't support WC conclusions, from completed book, not to be used)..."In what way does it not?" I tell. I then explain that present release will be very damaging to living and dead Kennedys. He aaks "WHY" and I explain about contract "which was given to you when it was denied to me and you didn't understand it when you used it." G:"I didn't know that." Offer him corres. on this.
"And you will see that you were used, Fred, because you don't have the kind of detailed knowledge I have...They leaked to you, on the theory,when you asked for it, that you would go for the sensation, which is a perfectly normal and proper thing." G. "So what did I miss?" I explain can be used to pin all suppression on Kennedys. Tell of my suits and leaving word for him, "but you never got in touch with me."...."When was that?" W. "A long time ago ..."Somyou t ink the Kennedys were bamboozled by other, is that it?"W;"Absolutely." refer to contract. Tell him Marshall's name written in and that he didn't draft."G. I'll check that..."I then offer, in confidence, to show him what is wrong with WR from the pix, X-rays. G:"You say you have the pictures and X-rays?" W:"No...I know what they show..."Offer to show him unpublished stuff in confidence, describe it as "enormous amount"...Well, now, if I'm gonna talk to, uh, when these people start going through". W:"If they do." G:"When they do. He's gonna let them see it."W:"Marshall has decided to let them see what?" G:"See, well, I don't know what. He says he has decided tomopen the material. Now, whether he is being selective, well, I don't know. But, uh, he, the material subjectto to that agreement."
I explain they went to court to deny me picture clothes part. G:"Well, now, I don(t know that they're gonna let anyone have pictures taken of thris."I tell him "but the contract provides

that they can't be seen...." G:"Well, let me ask you this:"I interrupt him to ask him to understand that they have gone to court to deny me access to what I'd sought. He says, "...Well, I don't know that. What I can say is this:as I understand it, what they are now doing, they are letting pathologists they say, doctors, anyway, go in there and look at these things. I don't they will let 'em photograph any of the items. That I don't know. But look at them, yes. Now, when these people start going, because they are gonna start going, what should I ask them when they get through?" I say depends on who. He says, "Well, the first one's gonna be Dr. John Lattimer." W?"Oh, Jesus!Of Columbia?...Then you should be familiar with the record that he has to defend". Apologist from beginning. Offer my file. "Nothing that you're gonna get outta him that's gonna be anything butt propaganda." G:"Uh, huh." W:Who are the others..."He gets list. G"Lattimer is the only one who has been given permission. The other three who had asked for permission, and Marshall says it has not been denied, but it hasn t been granted or denied because he says he ...hasn't focused him mind on it yet, are Dr. Wecht, Dr. John Nichols...Forrest Chapman, ? examiner for Wayne County, Michigan." Asks me about Wecht and Nichols when I say I don't know Chapman. Of Wecht say very good. Nichols I say off record is egomaniac. Detail on Nichols character, and big puff for Wecht, then my fear re Wecht, and I tell him of my efforts to see to it that it be denied at this time and for reasons. When I say it would be damaging to Teddy, he interrupts to ask "Why" and I say that if anyone understands it and says it destroys the Warren Reportand I remind him of my offers to see my stuff in confidence, so he can understand this. G:"Well, I'm trying to figure out how seeing something like that in confidence would really, uh, help me out because it could box me in." I say this is possible, but the Times can get it from me, complete..."G:Well, here's what's gonna happen: Lattimer's gonna see this stuff first.I don't know when the others are. He is gonna be say that it supports the conclusions."W:"Exactly!" G:"Well, let me ask you this: in talking to him, though, how can I sak him questions about it that might uncover his apologestic , un, position?" W:"The only way I can do it without endangering myself is to let you have my correspondence with him and his earlier writings." G", No, what I mean is what should I ask him?" I tell him he is asking me to disclose the contents of my new book. He says, "Uh, huh." I go into history of/with Times. I tell him I have to consider this history, "That's got nothing to do with you personally, but you don't control the Times."..."G:"You know how these things happen. You say they knew about it...". Then he says,"Well, let me tell you what I'm gonna do here, I'm gonna go ahead and pursue it. I'm in the dark about how intelligently debrief someone like Dr. Lattimer after he sees this stuff because I don't know where the residual flaws are. No, one other thing before I quit: How do you explain the four pathologists who the government put together on the panel a couple of years back. How do you explain their conclusion, as I understand it, that there's nothing in there inconsistent with the Warren Report?" I say this not their conclusion and explain in book. Remind him of proceeding in Halleck's court and he should remember. Does. I tell him much so techincal that only one who has made deep study can understand. Explain again when he asks about tanboolzing, that this is what would happen.

"G. Now, let me ask you one other thing. When Wecht - lets say Wecht gets permission to do this, now when he does it, he may really come ou and have something to say.W I ask him what can C say, that it destroys W R of doesn't. What will be consequence if he says destroys? G. No answer. So I say it will be that Kennedy familt suppressed. Tell him history other side and of chapter on it. G."Well, I think what I'm gonna have to do is just wait until Wecht has a look..." ...I tell him how to reach Wecht by phone...."If I can help you in any way that won't hurt me, Fred , I will. You see, my problem is " and I tell of printing problems. G. "Well, listen, we'll keep in touch, and, I'll got to Wecht, that's a good idea."

This from Dub. Long silence at end, but small amount tpae left.

Next side begins in mid-sentence, me asking if he has any idea when L. Will see? "G". Yey, but that...along the line of your information that you don't want anyone to know..." He says only coincidence keyed to retrun of Congress. G. "...Now, I have a feeling that Lattimer was given the go-ahead for this because he is, as you say, and apologist, and you see, his reaction will get more public notice than Wecht, who comes later, or others,...By the way, the fellow from Kansas,...what position has he taken?" I tell. "Well, look, you know, I just, uh, ...Let's leave it this, I'll have a talk, with you, as I say, you'll, in the course of things, I'm gonna write a piece about some of this, and then we'll put out heads together and see where we stand then, oaky?" I tell him more he should understand about bracebandage, and I tell him how braces are made.

Explain about straps on braces. G."So, what do you think he had the Ace bandage on for?" Wto protect part back brace can't protect.G"You know, I may have been reading that into what he said. He mentioned t at purpose for the brace, but I don't really think he said it had that purpose. I think he said that's why he wanted to see the brace and see the Ace bandage to see if he could decide."XXX I said he cangt know anything about the structure of the body, then. I tell of earlie writing. He signs off, "Thank you very much for calling, and you'll be hearing from me."

Poss something missing at end of other side or beginning this. I phoned him back after getting out my picture of brace and bandage.

Graham, 1/19/72

G..."that there are no sinister circumstances involving my article at all, that it's, came out in any that it shoulnet have, it was just my shortcomings rather than any kind of design." I suggest he was used. G."You said that." W."You remember, I predicted it." G. "Well, I'll tell you what I didx, now. I talked to you and I talked to a couple of others, and I tried my best to get them to, you and and them, to...warn me against anything to look for. I din't want to say" W interruptes: "I told you, I said read Lattimer's writitngs. I had it, come up here and get it."G" Well, I have 'em. But I didn t want to tell you or anyone else that he was going to see that material on Friday XXXXXX for obvious reasons... Because I wanted to hold tha for Sunday. It was a good story, as you saw."W. "I beg your pardon,I don't think it was a good story."G."Well, you might not-let me restate that, from your point of view. It was a story that wwas interesting to a lot of people and got a good play and from a newsman's point of xtew it was a good story. " W:"I hope the day will come when you will of your own free will give me a different des cription of that story, Fred." G. "WXXXX Okay. Well, we'll see about that." I tell him when he address some of the questions I asked you, such as how can pictures and X-rays show who fired the shot, then you will begin to understand...." G."Well, I'll tel you what I'm gon do. I've talked to Wecht. Of course, I've talked to him before this. And he's gonna let me know when and if he gets permission to see this. material. And we'll see who else does and who doesn't and I'll keep up with it..." I go into contract. He admits, "Well, its possible that back then they could have very well let that out by their own choce, and I'll tell you how tha happened. I called Rhoads, the Archivists, back in 1966...Well let me tell you..Icall Rhoads for something, and damned if I know how damned if I know what triggered my call to him, but when I called him he said I was trying to pump him about the terms. I think.-something had happened about that time that made it relavent, what the precise terms of this thing were. And Rhoads said,"Mr. Graham, you are the first person to inquire since the Freedom of Information act went into effect. " He said, xx uh, "I feel that since that statute is in effect, I now can no longer conceal the text of t is contract." So he said, "if you want itx come get it."And I hotfooted it right over and got it....That's my memory of it. Now as far as this time, I'll tell you exactly what happened here. And its just one of those things. Because of the story I had written in '66 [sic] in which I had said that fiv years later non-governmental people-people not under the auspices of the government would be permited to see the stuf (tickelr-editor) And sure enough, he was a little late, but I guessxx back in, oh, I guess in early December he pulled that thing out and gave it to me and said, "Check on this, will ya?" Well, I screwed around and didn t do anything and by the timeI called Burke Marshall's office, he was away on vacation. So, I called the Archives and they gave me the names of the four who had applied. I believe that's how it happened. Ithink they had records of that. Anyway, I think I got those four names from them. And then as soon as Marshall hit New Haven, coming back from the Virgin Islands, right after the first o f the year, I got him on the phone the first day, and he said, "Why, yes, as a matter of fact, I , today" about that time, 'wrote a letter to Lattimer tell ing him that he could go on. But I havendt made up mind xxxxx on the other three.' So I called Lattimer and actually got him before he got the letter. And I said, 'You're gonna get this letter, so when you gonna go.' And he said, 'Well, I'm gonna go as soon as I can.' So I said as soon as you find out when you let me know and I'll be there, So he called me back laterand said I'm gone on Friday and that's how it happened. That does not seem to me to be conducive to setting anyone up. That just happened."

I asked if he saw Lattimer's letter in the March 13, 1970 Medical World News. G. "No, I don't think so." W,"Remember Lattimer said from the very beginning that he had doubt about Oswald being the assassin until he saw these pictures and X-rays?" G. "Ya." W. "You know, he couldn't tell a bigger lie.Its the very first sentence he ever wrote. And this is what I wanted you to see in his own writing. In the Journal of the American Medical Association, the very first sentence, Let me refer you to what I think you can get. I can provide you with a copy. Its a remarkable t ing. Now on March 13, 1970, lattimer draws an inaccurate chart that can't be true of the single bullet theory and the picture is published and it exactly coincides with what he said he saw when he saw the pictures and X-rays, that likewise just can't be true, Fred. Now let me read you - I have it here because another reporter asked me earlier today -part of his reply to the objection of a Dr. Kupper, who means nothing to me, ...'Oswald shows what the educated, modern-day traitorous guerrilla can do among his own people working with religious-type conviction, willing to lay down his life, but proposing to kill as many anti-Communists as possible. Oswald was devious, skilled in his business, and amazingly cool.' Now you remember that I told you that I although I am not a particular Kennedy fan, I was deeply concerned about what could happen to them,mostly because...it would also mean ...I can't regard it as totally accidental that the one man who has since your story admitted he is not qualified, and Fred, I don't think you handled that really faithfully, when I told you what the provision of the contract is. He is not in "an allied field'...The one man who clearly is not qualified is the one who given exclusive access, what amounts to an copyright.Now you may regard that as an accident."
G. "Now wait a minute, not a copyright.Because you're presuming that none of these other people get to see the stuff. If that's true, sure."W. "well, it really makes no difference if he choses to write....And I think it's one of the questions I asked you, "How come you didn't consult an independent authority?"This is one of the norms of your business It used to be my business, and I don't think the norms have changed that much since I was younger." G "Well, I talked to Wecht." W. "After? Before you wrote the story?" G. "Yes". W. "And did you ask Wecht can pictures and X-rays show who fired the bullet? G."Well, that's a pretty loaded question, now, Harold." W. "Well, of course itsa loaded question, because that's a loaded story. You know that pictures and X-rays can't show who fired the bullet.But you were very uncritical about that. This is the current trend in reporting that makes meunhappy. It's called 'objectivity', but it really isn't. And this is what disturbs me about the whole thing. And the situation becomes one about a beating-your-wife question. Now you knew in advance...that that is a fiction that he is involved in (back brce)."
G. "Now again in your letter I think that the way I mentioned the brace to you really over stated it. He didn t tlak about the brace much." I interrupt to say I refered Fred to L's earlier writings on that. G."Well,in any event, in his talk with me very early in the game he mentioned the brace and the bandage, and then, later, in our conversation after he saw the stuff, he didn't want to talk about the brace." I ask if he heard L on CBS.Didn't. Single-bullet theory. I quote L as saying it is possible that 399 hit only Connally after seeing the picture and X-rays. NNow I don t know anybody who thought it worthwhile reporting that that might have some significance. Just as I don't know a single paper in the country or a single part of the electronic media that asked...the question that you said is loaded.'How can pictures and X-rays show who fired the shot?' Now I don't think in any honest, fair sense that's a loaded question, Fred, ncause I think it addresses the lead, the most important single thing, the third paragrpah of your story. And this is the headline that every treatment that I have seen carried. Now I think it's the headlines and the story that was loaded, and you know, I'm being frank with you, Fred. And I think if you'll go over our conversation in advance of this, and I didn't breach your confidence, you're aware of that?"G. "Sure." W."Even though you didn't ask me to keep confidence, I didn t breach it.I warned you about the potential of this, and yet, from my point of view, and again I'm being frank, you and the Times have done the country a lot of harm with this. Now when you got what amounted to an exclusive on it in particular, I don t know how much you've done about following it, but the wire stories were virtually word-for-word yours.And I did think it was a little bit unusual for CBS to give him a news conference Sunday night."
G. "Well, he had a news conference I think at which probably several networks attended, I'm not sure." W. "It was held in the CBS Reports studio."...Explain that I know he can't be an expert, "But I think you made a bad mistake not to do two things. First, it would have

taken you less than a half hour to read all of L's writing on the subject. And second, to follow the tradition of speaking to somebody else after the interview.After the interview. The quote you attributed to me, but the way, was my correction to you of what Wecht told you...." Predict that if Wecht gets to see will be worse and repeat whatI'd said earlier. Repeat again...G."Well, anyway, I'll, I'll know what to look for, I'M gonna keep up with Wecht, and we'll just, y'know, see what he says."W."What I'd like to know is what you're gonna do about that third paragraph of your story which says that pictures and X-rays prove that Oswald shot the President." G."Well, he says it says it says that." WW" I know that, but I'm asking you what, if anything, your or the Times will or in fact can do - Im mean, if the Times were to print a front-page retraction tomorrow, the rest of those who subscribed to that story wouldn't. And the wire-services wouldn't." G. "Well, listen, I'm---(pause) Obviously, I'm not and can't do anything about that. That's what the man said, ..." if he says that, you'r gonna print it. I said you can always check with somebody else to see if it is possible or you can always check yournown judgement. That's why I saked you the question I did, Fred, because I want you to stop and think that you knew that he was telling you what couldn't be so. " G. "Well, listen, let's don't beat that to death."

I explain my purposes to make complete and accurate record, hence wrote questions to him.

G"Ok, and I'll keep in touch."